

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 10833 140827Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 EPAE-00 DLOS-09 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 CEQ-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 EB-08 INT-05  
/070 W

-----049408 150034Z /14

R 140809Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8798

UNCLAS TOKYO 10833

FOR OES/ENP/EN

DEPT PASS TO EPA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SENV, JA  
SUBJECT: OIL SPILL INCIDENT IN SENDAI

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 7.5  
OCCURRED IN NORTHERN JAPAN CENTERING AROUND MIYAGI  
PREFECTURE AT 5:14 P.M. ON JUNE 12, THREE HEAVY OIL  
TANKS OF TOHOKU PETROLEUM COMPANY'S SENDAI OIL  
REFINERY DEVELOPED CRACKS, AND FROM 50,000 TO 60,000  
KILOLITERS OF SEMI-PRODUCT HEAVY OIL LEAKED, FILLING  
THE PRIMARY RETAINING POND COVERING AN AREA OF 3,600  
SQUARE METERS. THE OIL THEN OVERFLOWED THE BANK (80  
CENTIMETERS HIGH) AND LEAKED INTO THE HARBOR.

2. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE  
AND INDUSTRY (MITI), THE AMOUNT OF HEAVY OIL WHICH  
FLOWED INTO THE HARBOR WAS SEVERAL THOUSAND KILOLITERS  
(ESTIMATES VARY ACCORDING TO AGENCIES CONDUCTING  
INVESTIGATION: TOHOKU PETROLEUM ESTIMATED IT AT 1,500  
KILOLITERS; MITI AT 2,000 KILOLITERS; AND FIRE DEFENSE  
AGENCY AT 5,000 KILOLITERS). THREE FLOATING FENCES  
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HAVE PREVENTED THE OIL FROM FLOWING INTO THE SEA  
OUTSIDE THE SENDAI HARBOR. NO DAMAGE TO OYSTER AND  
LAVER CULTIVATION BEDS AROUND THE HARBOR HAS OCCURRED.  
IT WILL TAKE ABOUT A WEEK TO RECOVER THE SPILLED OIL  
ON LAND AND ON THE WATER SURFACE.

3. ABOVE INFO SENT ON REQUEST TO CENTER FOR SHORT-LIVED

PHENOMENA. MANSFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OIL SPILLS, EARTHQUAKES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TOKYO10833  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780249-0352  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780658/aaaabygo.tel  
**Line Count:** 63  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 786fe888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2346998  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OIL SPILL INCIDENT IN SENDAI  
**TAGS:** SENV, JA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/786fe888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014